

Filed for intro on 06/22/2000

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 881
By Brooks

A RESOLUTION to honor, recognize, and congratulate Ms. Lori Ann Bradford for her outstanding efforts to establish the Tennessee Middle Passage Monument .

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators would like to lead the 101st Tennessee General Assembly in expressing gratitude to the one who led us in the establishment of the first Middle Passage Monument in the United States created as a result of legislation; and

WHEREAS, in the natural course of events, there are those individuals who possess the innate ability to be great leaders; and

WHEREAS, on February, 3rd 1969, God, in his infinite wisdom, brought forth such an individual, an Aquarius, Ms. Lori Ann Bradford, of Severna Park, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, eager to make a solid contribution to the ***Maafa Remembrance Movement*** Lori in turn made an invaluable contribution to the state of Tennessee as well as the African-

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American Community at large by initiating the establishment of Tennessee's Middle Passage Monument; and

WHEREAS, the memorial is located on the southwest lawn of the Tennessee State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, it honors the Africans who died in the Middle Passage (the slave trade triangular route which transported humans as cargo from Africa to the Americas, Europe, and the Caribbean), a deplorable event in U.S. and world history that occurred from 1444-1860; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bradford wrote and lobbied for the passage of Senate Joint Resolution 7020, to fulfill the requirements of her Graduate Management Project for her Masters of Public Health program at Meharry Medical College's Division of Community Health Sciences; and

WHEREAS, she submitted a Graduate Management Project Conclusion Paper summarizing her efforts to establish this Monument, which explores the Intergenerational Trauma Caused by the Middle Passage on modern day African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, it is Ms. Bradford's intent to initiate dialogue between health policy makers, health care providers, and educators in order to develop Cultural Competencies geared specifically towards African-Americans, who collectively suffer from Intergenerational Trauma caused by the Middle Passage and Slavery, and stand in need of recovery from said trauma; and

WHEREAS, feeling strongly that we as a state and a nation need to move forth into the new millenium with a renewed outlook on the experience of slavery, it is her goal to generate multi-disciplinary dialogue that would work towards healing the psychological scars left by slavery on all of American society, particularly its African-American members; and

WHEREAS, by working closely in partnership with The Tennessee Black Caucus, Miss Bradford succeeded in having a scarlet oak planted as part of the Middle Passage Monument, with a commemorative plaque to be added shortly thereafter, describing one of the most

egregious violations of human rights against a group of people, that the world has ever known;
and

WHEREAS, in addition to her exceptional job on the Middle Passage Resolution and the subsequent Monument, she was a committee intern in 1999, and very instrumental to the success of the Senate General Welfare Committee that year; and

WHEREAS, Representative Henri E. Brooks reported to the Black Caucus on April 13, 1999, after Ms. Bradford presented the resolution to the Caucus formally, along with a history of the Middle Passage, that no intern in recent history had ever completed such a splendid project at the state legislature; and

WHEREAS, her commitment and dedication in every deed is to be commended, and the Torch for Freedom may safely be passed down to Lori Ann from the Elders, for she most definitely is a Strong Warrior poised to fight for The Struggle; and

WHEREAS, Lori Ann was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and raised in Severna Park, Maryland, thirty minutes south of Baltimore City; and

WHEREAS, she attended the Key Private Academic School in Annapolis, Maryland, before completing her high school education at Severna Park Senior High School in 1987; and

WHEREAS, Lori Ann attended Howard University from 1987-91, graduating with a Bachelors of Science in Psychology; and

WHEREAS, she completed a science program from 1993-1995 at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale called the Medical Dental Preparatory Program (MEDPREP); and

WHEREAS she entered Meharry's Public Health program in 1998, she ***intends*** to complete the program with her Masters of Science in Public Health (M.S.P.H.) degree after much struggle and strife on June 30th, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the youngest grandbaby on both sides of her family, she is preceded in her nuclear family by an oldest brother, Anthony Stansbury Bradford, a steelworker of Bethlehem Steel in Baltimore County and father of Crystal Danielle, and her only sister, Linda Lynn

Bradford-Washington, a **mediator** for the National Department of Treasury in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, heading her family are her father, Arthur Devole Bradford, a retired laborer from Baltimore, Maryland, and her mother, Dorothy Mae Bradford, a retired Registered Nurse also from Baltimore City; the two have known each other for sixty years, since the age of five; and

WHEREAS, instrumental to her development were her paternal grandmother, Florence Clara Louise Bradford, and her paternal aunt, Silvine Lillie Mae Bradford, L.P.N. (retired); and

WHEREAS, Lori represents the Bradford family extremely well here in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, resilient, determined, strong Black woman that she is, the Ghanaian Adinkra Symbol which characterizes her personality is the fern, **NyameNti**, which means "By God's Grace"; the proverb associated with this symbol is, "Since God exists, I will not feed on leaves like an animal, or a beast"; and

WHEREAS, her Life has been, and continues to be an '*Act of Faith*', as she overcomes great obstacles, and continues pressing towards her goals with the knowledge that what her **Third Eye** sees on the Spiritual Plane, will eventually manifest on Earth; and

WHEREAS, Lori Bradford has indubitably shown the African Ancestors her love, devotion, and has inspired the African-American communities of Tennessee to strive to live their lives in a manner which would make the Ancestors proud; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Ms. Lori Ann Bradford for her outstanding contribution to the state of Tennessee via her instrumental role in the establishment of the Tennessee Middle Passage Monument, and express our gratitude and thanks to Ms. Bradford for writing 7020 calling for the Monument, and for writing the inscription on the Monument, which describes the Middle Passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Ms. Bradford with this final clause omitted from such copy.